

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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CROOKS YANKED FROM DST COMMITTEE FOR REPRESENTING HIS CONSTITUENTS' INTERESTS

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Dave Crooks (D-Washington) was removed today from a House-Senate conference committee assigned to reach a compromise on daylight-saving time after refusing to sign a report that requires all Hoosiers to change their clocks twice a year, beginning in 2006.

House Speaker Brian Bosma (R-Indianapolis) yanked Crooks from the conference committee on Senate Bill 127 after the Democrat again made it clear that public hearings across Indiana were necessary before enacting the time change.

"My position on this has been clear from the start," Crooks said. "The majority of the people I represent in the 63rd House District have told me that they do not want any change in our time. There are people who could accept daylight-saving time if Indiana was moved to Central Time.

"I did my best to make sure that the citizens of Southwest Indiana were heard in the halls of state government, but it looks like the governor and special business interests have won this round," he continued.

Crooks was replaced by State Rep. Randy Borrer (R-Fort Wayne), chairman of the House Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business Committee and a staunch supporter of the time change.

"I am sure that Rep. Borrer will sign the conference committee report, which means the time change bill will be assigned to the Senate Rules Committee," Crooks said. "However, I still am not sure whether the majority of legislators in the House and Senate want to see this change become law. If they listen to their constituents, as I have listened to mine, I am sure they will see that this proposal is premature."

Crooks said he has been overwhelmed with telephone calls, letters and e-mails voicing support for his position.

"It is obvious there is no consensus on this issue, and there won't be until the state and federal government conduct statewide hearings to gauge the public's feelings on the time change," he said. "In my time in the Legislature, I have learned that patience can be the key in resolving many difficult issues. Rushing to pass daylight-saving time before more public testimony is gathered is wrong and irresponsible."

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This news release can be accessed on the Internet at www.IN.gov/H63